Lobbying

Lobbyists' Literature
A sampling of materials left behind in Congressional offices in 2014

Like other forms of petitioning, lobbying involves direct actions intended to influence governmental policy. From the days in which politicians were regularly confronted in Washington, D.C., hotel lobbies, it has been a significant way that some people have affected and participated in their government.

Lobby: A Capital Game
In this 1949 Milton Bradley board game, players assume the roles of senators and representatives navigating their bills through Congress with the help and hindrance of special interests.

Lobbying has been carried out by individuals and informal groups advocating their causes and by well-funded professionals who represent large corporations and established organizations with significant sums of money at their disposal. And where money and power meet, there is always the possibility that in this representative democracy not everyone is listened to equally.

Keep Out
The role of professional lobbyists has always been controversial. Congressman Alfred N. Phillips in 1937 posted a sign on his office door welcoming everyone, “except professional lobbyists.”
Courtesy of Library of Congress

Lobbying for Women's Rights

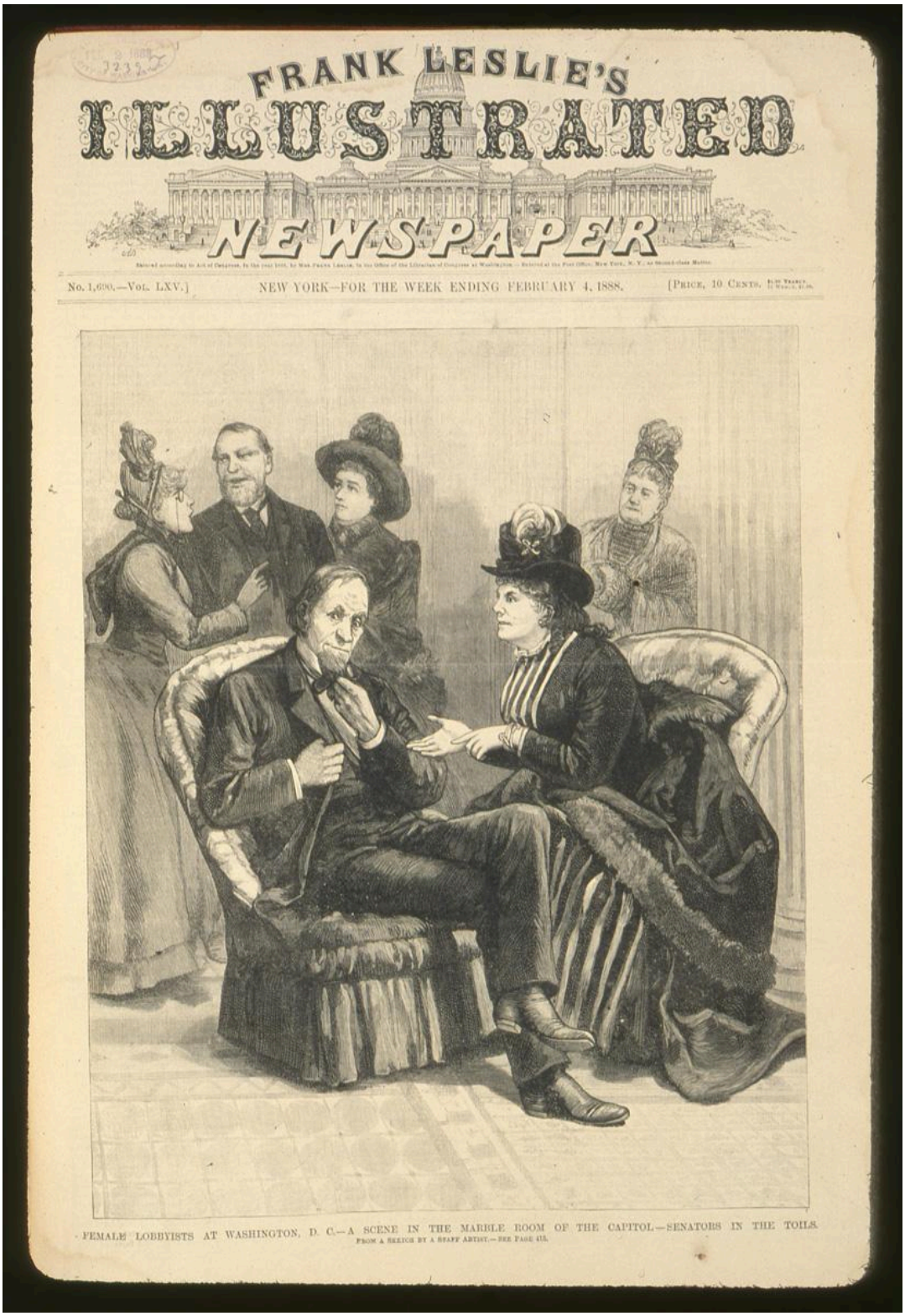
In the 1890s it was said that you would know that spring had arrived in Washington when Susan B. Anthony in her red shawl was seen in the Capitol advocating for women’s rights.

Portrait of Susan B. Anthony, around 1890
Courtesy of Library of Congress <https://lccn.loc.gov/94509057>

Susan B. Anthony's shawl
Gift of National American Woman Suffrage Association

View object record </collections/nmah_529597>

“The Marble Room in the Senate wing of the Capitol at Washington is peculiarly the haunt of the professional female lobbyist. … These female lobbyists are for the most part accomplished, versatile and fair to look upon, and the raw and inexperienced Senator falls an easy prey to their blandishments.”


FRANK LESLIE'S
ILLUSTRATED
NEWSPAPER

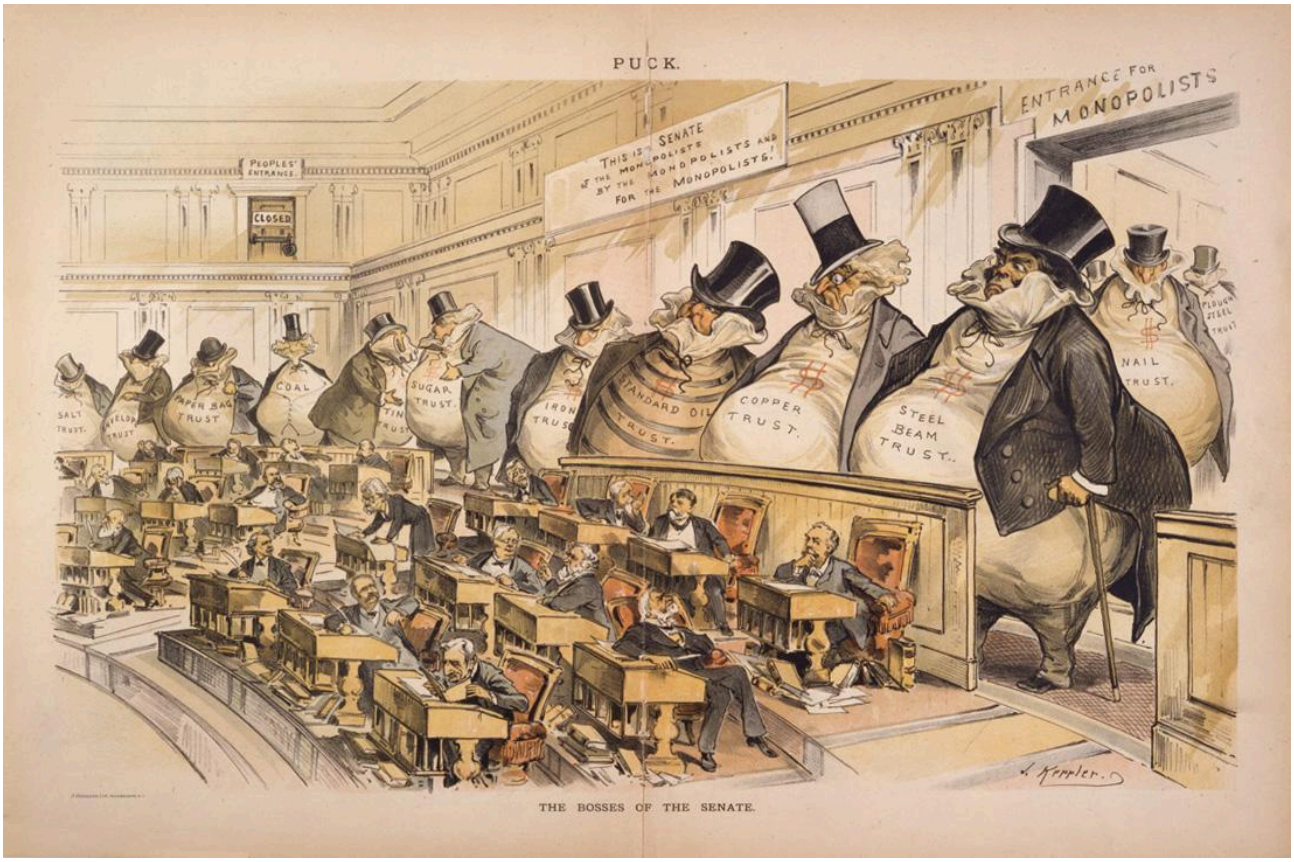
No. 1,690.—Vol. LXV.] NEW YORK—FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 4, 1888. [Price, 10 Cents.

FEMALE LOBBYISTS AT WASHINGTON, D. C.—A SCENE IN THE MARBLE ROOM OF THE CAPITOL—SENATORS IN THE TOILS.
From a Sketch by a Staff Artist.—See Page 415.

***Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper,* February 4, 1888**
Courtesy of Library of Congress <https://lccn.loc.gov/2001696513>

Deceit and Corruption

At times money, scandals, and politics just seem to go together. While many people hope dishonesty is the exception, the more cynical believe it is just the norm.

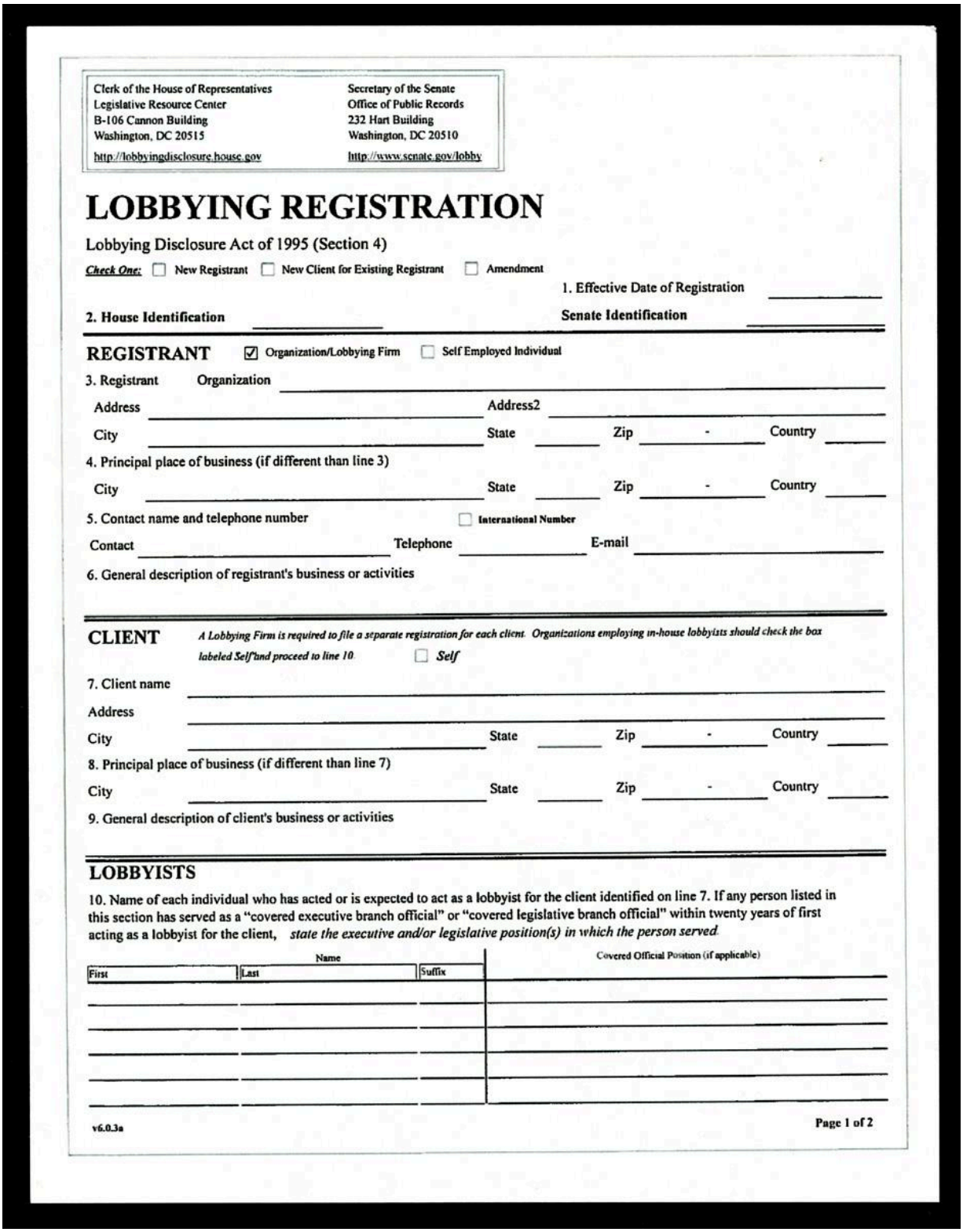


"The Bosses of the Senate," *Puck*, January 23, 1889
Courtesy of U.S. Senate Collection

The Deadly Upas Tree of Wall Street
The face of Jay Gould, financier and railroad developer, is formed by the limbs and branches at the center of this poisonous tree blooming with bribes, *Puck*, August 30, 1882.
Gift of Marcia B. Kass in memory of Herbert J. Friedman

Campaign Contributions
Newspaper cartoonist Clifford Berryman lampooned presidential candidate William Taft for using the issue of tariff reform to fill his wallet in this 1908 drawing.
Gift of Florence S. Berryman in memory of Clifford Berryman

Washington Confidential
The cover says it all in this exposé of the capital's underside, published in 1951.
Gift of Harry Rubenstein



Clerk of the House of Representatives
Legislative Resource Center
B-106 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515
http://lobbyingdisclosure.house.gov

Secretary of the Senate
Office of Public Records
232 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510
http://www.senate.gov/lobby

LOBBYING REGISTRATION

Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (Section 4)

Check One: ☐ New Registrant ☐ New Client for Existing Registrant ☐ Amendment

1. Effective Date of Registration _____

2. House Identification _____ Senate Identification _____

REGISTRANT

☑ Organization/Lobbying Firm ☐ Self Employed Individual

3. Registrant Organization _____

Address _____ Address2 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____ Country _____

4. Principal place of business (if different than line 3)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____ Country _____

5. Contact name and telephone number ☐ International Number

Contact _____ Telephone _____ E-mail _____

6. General description of registrant's business or activities

CLIENT

A Lobbying Firm is required to file a separate registration for each client. Organizations employing in-house lobbyists should check the box labeled Self and proceed to line 10. ☐ *Self*

7. Client name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____ Country _____

8. Principal place of business (if different than line 7)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____ Country _____

9. General description of client's business or activities

LOBBYISTS

10. Name of each individual who has acted or is expected to act as a lobbyist for the client identified on line 7. If any person listed in this section has served as a "covered executive branch official" or "covered legislative branch official" within twenty years of first acting as a lobbyist for the client, *state the executive and/or legislative position(s) in which the person served.*

Name			Covered Official Position (if applicable)
First	Last	Suffix	

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House of Representatives lobbying registration form
Any individuals or organizations that meet the formal definition of lobbyist under the Lobbying Disclosure Act are required to register and file regular reports on their activities.

Jack Abramoff Scandal

In one of the most publicized political scandals in modern times, lobbyist Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty to conspiracy, fraud, and tax evasion. The case, which centered on an Indian casino, uncovered a world of bribes, money laundering, and double-dealing that even surprised the capital's establishment.

***Time* magazine, January 16, 2006**
Gift of Harry Rubenstein

Hours & Admission

Open every day, except December 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Admission is free and no tickets are required.

Location & Contact

1300 Constitution Ave NW,
Washington, DC 20560 <https://www.google.com/maps/place/smithsonian+national+museum+of+american+history/@38.8912835,-77.0322449,17z>

Contact Information </about/contact>

Our mission is to empower people to create a just and compassionate future by exploring, preserving, and sharing the complexity of our past.

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